



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Cecilia Brazil

Cecilia Brazil's association with Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital spans nearly 60 years.

Cecilia trained as a General Nurse from 1954 and obtained her Midwifery Certificate from Brisbane Women's Hospital in 1960. She was on the Royal Brisbane Hospital trained nursing staff from 1963 until 1994, holding positions ranging from Junior Sister to Head of the Nursing Services Branch.

Committed to continuing education, Cecilia was awarded the Hospital Nursing and Ward Management Diploma (1969) and the Diploma in Nursing Administration (1975).

From 1979, Cecilia broadened her knowledge and skills in Nursing Research and Computers which included attending a workshop at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital conducted by renowned Nursing Researcher, Dr Elizabeth Hockey. She was an active member of the Computers in Nursing Special Interest Group, Royal Australian Nursing Federation, Queensland Branch from 1984-1995.

Whilst Head of the Nursing Services Branch (1983-1986) she introduced the first Philosophy of Nursing and Objectives based on Virginia Henderson's theory of professional nursing.

Cecilia is a former President of the Royal Brisbane Hospital Graduate Nurses Association (RBHGNA) and was Chair of the History of Nursing Sub-committee (1986-1994).

Two books were published: *A Tradition of Care, a history of nursing at the Royal Brisbane Hospital* (Helen Gregory, 1988) and; *Bearers of the Tradition, Nurses of the Royal Brisbane Hospital 1888-1993* (Helen Gregory and Cecilia Brazil, 1993) for which Cecilia compiled a list of over 9,300 nurses who received the Brisbane Hospital Certificate.

While researching and archiving the publication material, Cecilia became passionate for the Royal Brisbane Hospital's history of nursing and heritage, particularly the Lady Lamington Nurses' Home. From 1995 she was (voluntary) Curator of the Museum of Nursing History RBHGNA, located in the north-west wing of the Lady Lamington Nurses Home.

To complete her tertiary studies at Griffith University, Cecilia retired as Assistant Nursing Superintendent (Personnel) in 1994. She was granted a Bachelor of Arts (Australian and Comparative Studies) in 1997 from Griffith University, majoring in Culture and Policy and Political Economy. These studies assisted her immensely in her role as an historian, researcher and writer. On invitation Cecilia wrote the chapter on "Surgical Nursing" for Dr Simon Siu's publication *History of the Division of Surgery Royal Brisbane Hospital* (2003).

Drawing on her nursing, professional and cultural background Cecilia wrote the stories and signage for the RBWH foyer historical displays to celebrate the 140th anniversary Brisbane Hospital (2007), the 70th anniversary Brisbane Women's Hospital (2008) and the 150th anniversary Queensland Health (2009).

At the 2008 RBWH Health Care Symposium Cecilia was one of four recipients to receive an inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award "for a substantial lifetime contribution to nursing and to the preservation of the hospital's heritage".

Cecilia retired as voluntary Curator of the Museum of Nursing History, RBHGNA in April 2011.

